



**Helping the Church Become A Healing
Presence Within Racially Divided
Communities**

**Session One:
Roots of Racial Division**

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"I still think today as yesterday that the color line is a great problem of this century. But today I see more clearly than yesterday that back of the problem of race and color, lies a greater problem which both obscures and implements it: and that is the fact that so many civilized persons are willing to live in comfort even if the price of this is poverty, ignorance, and disease of the majority of their fellowmen." - W.E.B. Du Bois



Roots of Racial Division- An exploration of the historic roots of the racial division that our nation is currently experiencing. Webinar will explore this theme through the use of current literature, personal stories and artwork.

This training will explore some of the historic ways in which science, law, media, and the Bible have been used to keep people of differing races/ethnicities living separate and unequal lives, in particular those whom we identify as black and white or Negro and Caucasian.

Within a 40 minute timeframe, it is extremely hard to hope to do anything but scratch the surface of the historic interactions between the two people groups.

Roots of the Racial Divide:



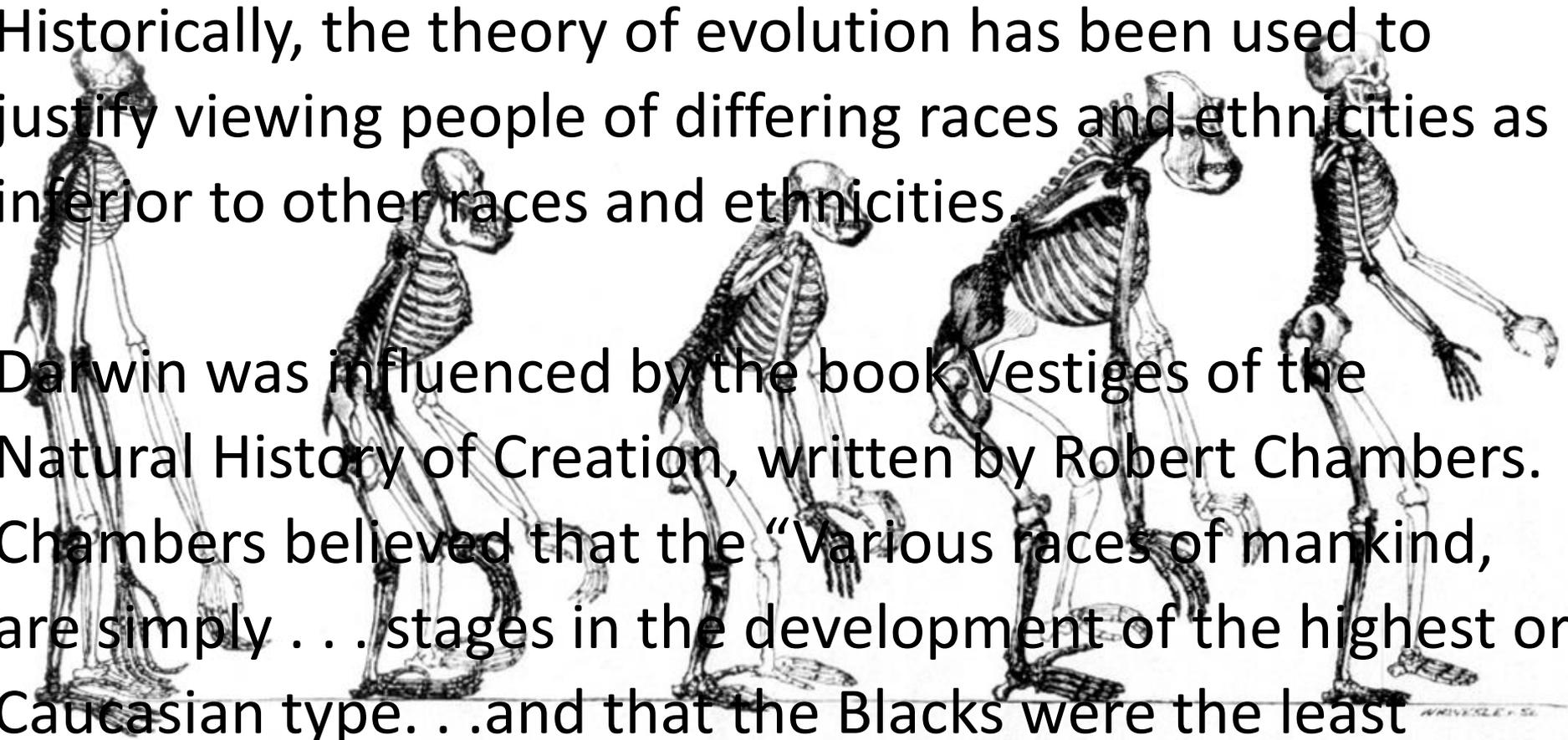
Science, Law, Media, and the Bible

Natural Science

Darwinism and evolution

Historically, the theory of evolution has been used to justify viewing people of differing races and ethnicities as inferior to other races and ethnicities.

Darwin was influenced by the book *Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation*, written by Robert Chambers. Chambers believed that the “Various races of mankind, are simply . . . stages in the development of the highest or Caucasian type. . .and that the Blacks were the least developed, and the Caucasians were the highest, most evolved race.”



- Vestiges proposed a theory of social and biological evolution that concluded that “The Negro was 'at the foot of' the Mongol, the Yellow race between, and Caucasians at the top.”
- Charles Darwin built on this theory within his book *The Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life*.
- *The Origin of Species* taught that through the process of natural selection, groups/populations learn necessary skills to evolve/change and grow over time while other groups/populations don't. This applied specifically to people.

- Although, in his personal life, Darwin opposed all forms of slavery, he did eventually conclude that one of the strongest evidences for evolution was the existence of living 'primitive races' which he believed were evolutionarily between the 'civilized races of man' and the gorilla.
- After coming into contact with the Indian population of Tierra del Fuego, Darwin wrote: "I could not have believed how wide was the difference between savage and civilized man; it is greater than between a wild and domesticated animal . . . Viewing such a man, one can hardly make oneself believe that they are fellow creatures and inhabitants of the same world."
- In Darwin's view, the "civilized races" would eventually replace the "savage races throughout the world."

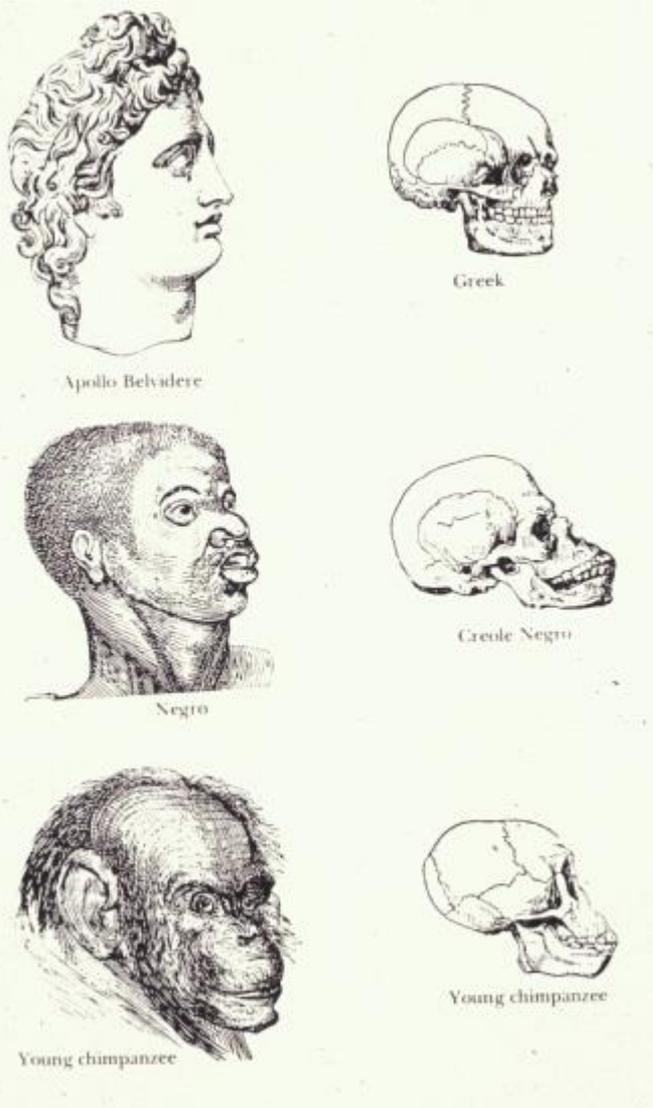
Darwin saw natural selection at work in many places:

- The killing of indigenous peoples of Australia by the British.
- He saw the Black race as one of the “savage races” and categorized them as being closer in kin to gorillas than to other humans.



Darwin also wrote, “At some future period, not very distant as measured by centuries, the civilized races of man (White) will almost certainly exterminate, and replace, the savage races (Black) throughout the world. At the same time, the anthropomorphous apes. . . will no doubt be exterminated. The break between man and his nearest allies will then be wider, for it will intervene between man in a more civilized state, as we may hope, even than the Caucasian, and some ape as low as a baboon, instead of as now between the Negro or Australian and the gorilla. ... It has often been said ... that man can resist with impunity the greatest diversities of climate and other changes; but this is true only of the civilized races.”

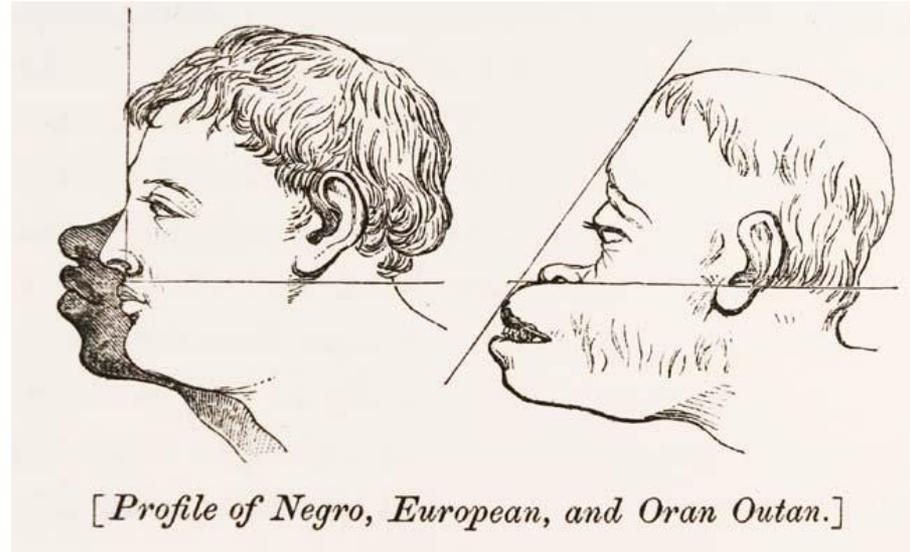
- By the late 1800s Social Darwinism was beginning to find a foothold in society's collective thinking.
- Social Darwinists took the ideas found in Darwinism and developed them further in order to argue extensively that certain "inferior races" were less evolved, less human, and more apelike than the "superior races."
- Prominent social scientists like Herbert Spencer and William Graham Sumner argued that social life was a life-and-death struggle in which the best individuals would win out over inferior individuals. Sumner argued that wealthy Americans, almost entirely white at the time, were products of natural selection and as the "superior race" essential to the advance of civilization. Blacks were seen as a "degenerate race."



- The belief that one of the drawbacks to evolution was that fact that racial inferiority was unavoidable often appeared in the biology textbooks published and used at the time. The regularly used American high school biology textbook titled *A Civic Biology* included a section on evolution under the subtitle 'The Races of Man.' The section identifies five races or varieties of man, each very different from the other in instinct, social customs, and in structure.
- The five races were ranked from inferior to superior as follows: “There are the Ethiopian or Negro type, originating in Africa; the Malay or brown race, from the islands of the Pacific; the American Indian; the Mongolian or yellow race, including the natives of China, Japan and the Eskimos; and finally, the highest type of all, the Caucasians, represented by the civilized white inhabitants of Europe and America.”

Most textbooks described Negroes as physically and mentally inferior to most other races. The Encyclopedia Britannica, under the heading 'Negro', stated:

“By the nearly unanimous consent of anthropologists this type occupies the lowest position in the evolutionary scale the cranial sutures . . . close much earlier in the Negro than in other races. To this premature ossification of the skull, preventing all further development of the brain, many pathologists have attributed the inherent mental inferiority of the blacks, an inferiority which is even more marked than their physical differences . . . the development of the Negro and White proceeds on different lines ,.in the former the growth of the brain is arrested by the premature closing of the cranial sutures. The mental [differences] are at least as marked as the physical differences. No full blooded Negro has ever been distinguished as a man of science, a poet, or an artist.”



Thomas Huxley, an early proponent and defender of evolution and believer in the physical and social superiority of the White race, wrote, “No rational man, cognizant of the facts, believes that the average Negro is the equal, still less the superior, of the white man. And, if this be true, it is simply incredible [to assume] that, when all his disabilities are removed... he will be able to compete successfully with his bigger-brained and smaller-jawed rival, in a contest which is to be carried out by thoughts and not by bites.”

Social Sciences

The social sciences have also been used extensively to lengthen the divide between Blacks and Whites.

The Bell Curve

One example is the study published as *The Bell Curve: Intelligence and Class Structure in the United States*. *The Bell Curve* argued that human intelligence is greatly influenced by multiple inherited and environmental factors and is a better predictor of how a person will act in life, especially as it relates to the personal dynamics of financial income, job performance, birth out of wedlock, and involvement in crime. They also argue that those with high intelligence, the "cognitive elite", are becoming separated from those of average and below-average intelligence.

The authors, Richard Herrnstein and Charles Murray, claim that inherited intelligence and not environment or class is the main determiner of what a person can make out of their life. They say that "success or failure in the American economy, and all that goes with it, are increasingly a matter of the genes that people inherit."

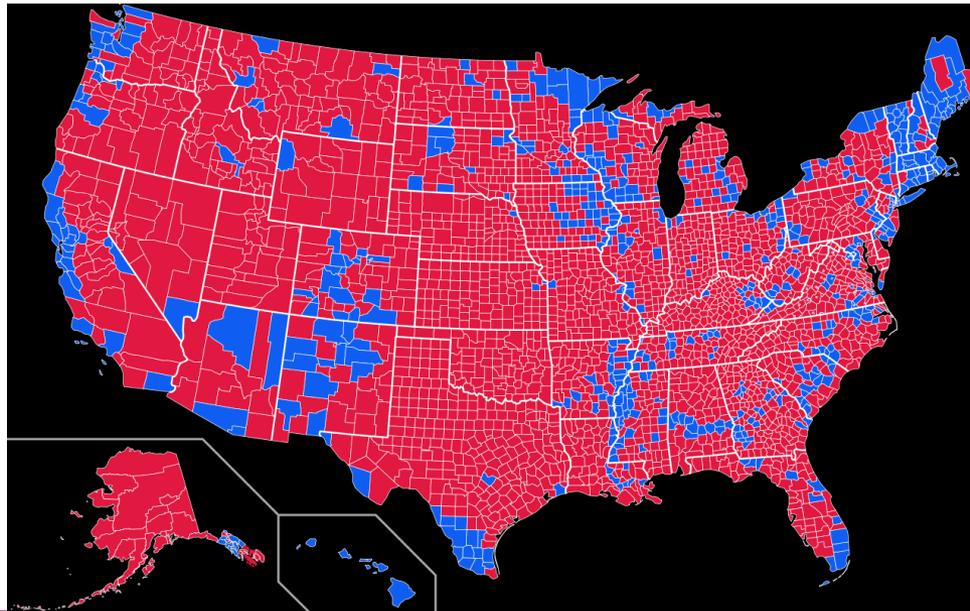
"The poor are poor not because they are unlucky to be born poor, but because they were not lucky enough to have inherited good genes."

The authors also say that IQ scores are the most reliable way of measuring intelligence or cognitive ability and that a person's IQ cannot be improved. They also argue that America is separating itself into a class of high a IQ "cognitive elite" and an inferior class with low IQ with a low IQ serving as a predictor of propensity to participate in crime, poverty, unemployment, and government dependency while a high IQ is a predictor of wealth and stability.

This viewpoint is justified by using data to show that cutbacks in social programs are needed because they subsidize the growth of the lower intelligence population.

"The ranks of the cognitively inferior are disproportionately filled with blacks, Latinos, and today's immigrants. And that's a serious disadvantage because low IQ- not education or opportunity- is the key factor underlying problems ranging from poverty and criminal behavior to out of wedlock births and being a bad parent."

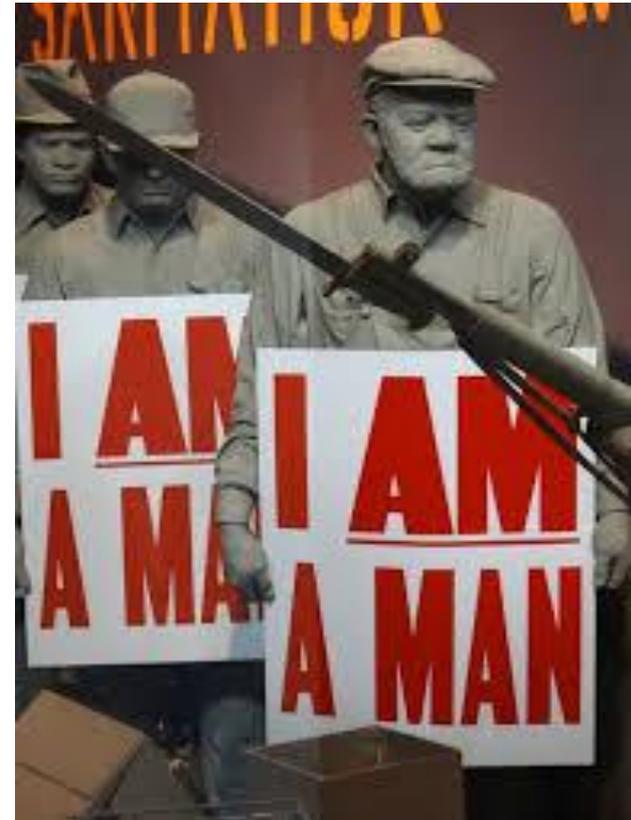
From the article *Flattening the Bell Curve* in *People's Weekly World*, Joe Sims wrote, “The racist proposals put forward in *The Bell Curve* are more than just talk. They are increasingly becoming governmental policy. The Republican Contract on America is *The Bell Curve* in legislative form. One of the main planks in the contract is the so-called Personal Responsibility Act whose intent is clear: eliminate welfare to lower birthrates among African American and Latino women. And it must be said that the only difference between these proposals and the proposals put forward by the Clinton administration is one of degree.”



Mr. Sims then asked, “Why this new racist offensive, and why now? The basis for it was laid in the 12 years of Reagan and Bush -- 12 years that largely shaped the current economic and political landscape. It was during this period that the current patterns of hyper segregation, large-scale unemployment and contingent labor were initiated. It was also during this reign that the first blows were dealt to affirmative action. And race -- directly, blatantly -- became the main tool for winning presidential elections, when the name Willie Horton became a household word.”

"The Bell Curve is a direct challenge to the concept of human equality. Inequality is said to be immutable and determined by heredity. The struggle for equality has, they say, raised expectations impossibly beyond any hope for their realization.

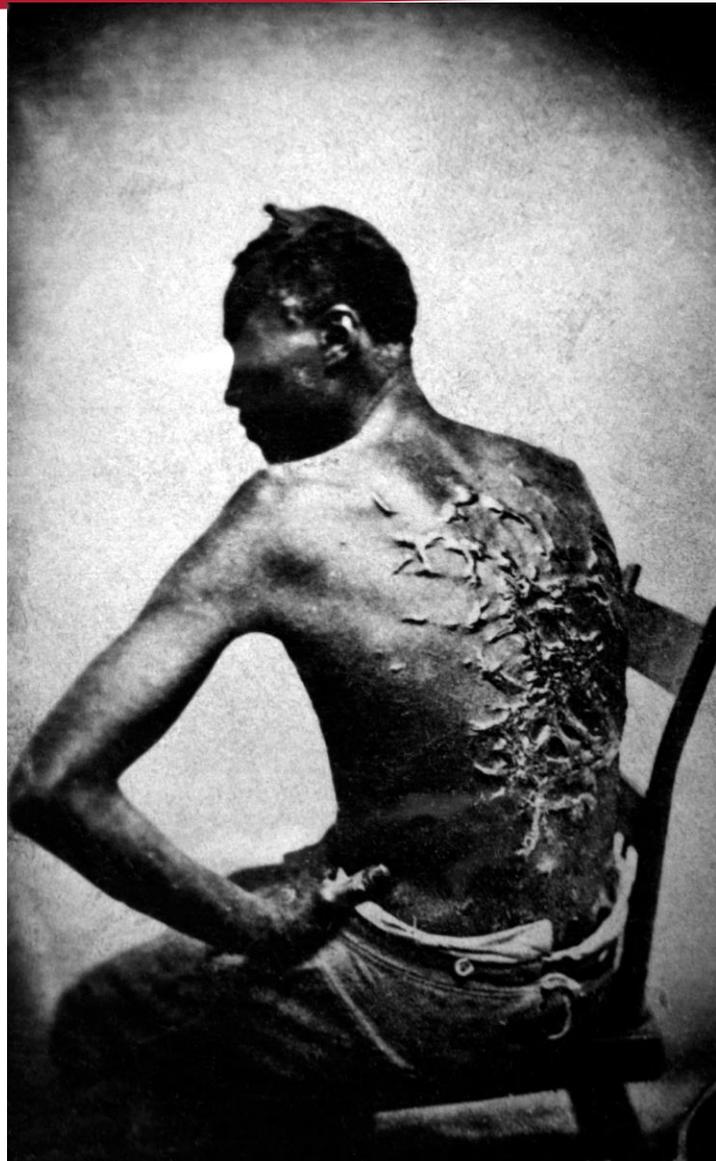
The authors have refashioned and updated an old concept -- that everyone has a "valued place" in society, determined by natural ability and gift. The "valued place" of those with high intelligence is in the university and the corporate boardroom where they are content and happy. The place of "lower breeds" is on the farm picking cotton, in the laundry room ironing or in front of a blast furnace in some steel mini-mill."



The ideological generals of the right wing admit as much. Here are two examples. Pat Buchanan said, "I think a lot of the data [in *The Bell Curve*] is indisputable . . . It does shoot a hole straight through the heart of egalitarian socialism which tried to create equality of result by coercive government programs."

Michael Barone says, "The implication of their argument is, if they're right, that we really should not engage in a lot of government social engineering to create equal outcomes and so forth."

Medical Sciences



There is a long history of medical experimentation on Black bodies.

Experiments on Slaves

Former slave John Brown described how his master, Dr. Thomas Hamilton of Georgia, performed homemade medical experiments on him in which he was made to sit naked on a stool above a burning pit.

“I could not have helped myself. There was nothing for it but passive resignation, and I gave myself up in ignorance and in much fear,” wrote Brown.

After temperatures reached 100 degrees, Brown passed while Dr. Hamilton stood by with a thermometer.

In another experiment, Dr. Hamilton attempted to determine the width of black skin by blistering Brown’s hand and feet.

- Hospitals regularly posted announcements seeking black slaves to be used in experiments. In the 1850's, "sick negroes" who couldn't perform their daily duties were delivered to Dr. T. Stillman in order to be "healed." Some of the slaves were brought back to health, while others died from being experimented on.
- Even up to the 1970's, prisons conducted experiments on prisoners, most of whom were black, without their knowledge or permission.
- At Philadelphia's Holmesburg prison, Dow Chemical paid to test potential carcinogens on the mostly black prison population. Many prisoners developed cancers, skin conditions, and mental illness as a result of their experimentation.



Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment

- The Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment was a clinical study conducted between 1932 and 1972 by the U.S. Public Health Service studying the natural progression of untreated syphilis in rural African-American men in Alabama under the guise of receiving free health care from the United States government.
- 600 low income African American sharecroppers from Macon County, Alabama participated in a large scale study of which they didn't fully understand and the parameters of which were never fully explained to them.



- Of the group, 399 had previously contracted syphilis before the study began, and 201 did not have the disease. The men were given free medical care, meals, and free burial insurance for participating in the study. After funding for treatment was lost, the study was continued without informing the men they would never be treated. None of the men infected were ever told they had the disease, and none were treated with penicillin, which was the most accessible and affordable treatment available at the time.
- The results of the study were that numerous men died of syphilis, 40 wives contracted the disease, and 19 children born with congenital syphilis.

- Eventually a whistleblower made the government aware of what was happening.
- The fallout from The Tuskegee Experiment led to new regulations and protections for those who participate in medical testing, including requiring medical teams to get informed consent from participants, clear communication of diagnosis to participants, and accurate reporting of test results to participants.

Laws Leading to Racial Division

Although the process of freeing slaves was in full swing in 1863, it would be many more years before African Americans were viewed as truly free or somewhat equal to others.

The Dred Scott Decision

Dred Scott was a slave, who after being moved to a state that was free, attempted to sue in order to gain freedom for himself and his family.

The courts ruled against him, stating:

- “Any person descended from Africans, whether slave or free, is not a citizen of the United States, according to the Constitution.
- The Ordinance of 1787 could not confer either freedom or citizenship within the Northwest Territory to non-white individuals.
- The provisions of the Act of 1820, known as the Missouri Compromise, were voided as a legislative act, since the act exceeded the powers of Congress, insofar as it attempted to exclude slavery and impart freedom and citizenship to non-white persons in the northern part of the Louisiana Purchase.”

The Court had effectively ruled that African Americans had no claim to freedom or citizenship, at all.

- Since they were not citizens, they did not possess the legal standing to bring suit in a federal court.
- As slaves were private property, Congress did not have the power to regulate slavery in the territories and could not revoke a slave owner's rights based on where he lived.
- This decision nullified the essence of the Missouri Compromise, which divided territories into jurisdictions either free or slave.

Because Scott was considered the private property of his owners, he was subject to the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution, prohibiting the taking of property from its owner "without due process".

13th Amendment

- **Section 1.** Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.
- **Section 2.** Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.



- Southern states enacted laws that required blacks to have written evidence of employment for the coming year each January; if they left before the end of the contract, they would be forced to forfeit earlier wages and were subject to arrest.
- In South Carolina, a law prohibited blacks from holding any occupation other than farmer or servant unless they paid an annual tax of \$10 to \$100. This provision hit free blacks already living in Charleston and former slave artisans especially hard. In both states, blacks were given heavy penalties for vagrancy, including forced plantation labor in some cases.
- The former Confederate states passed strict vagrancy and labor contract laws, as well as so-called “antienticement” measures designed to punish anyone who offered higher wages to a black laborer already under contract.
- Blacks who broke labor contracts were subject to arrest, beating and forced labor, and apprenticeship laws forced many minors (either orphans or those whose parents were deemed unable to support them by a judge) into unpaid labor for white planters. Passed by a political system in which blacks effectively had no voice, the black codes were enforced by all-white police and state militia forces (often made up of Confederate veterans of the Civil War) across the South.

Convict Leasing

Convict leasing was a system of penal labor practiced primarily in the South. It provided prisoner labor to private parties, such as plantation owners and corporations.

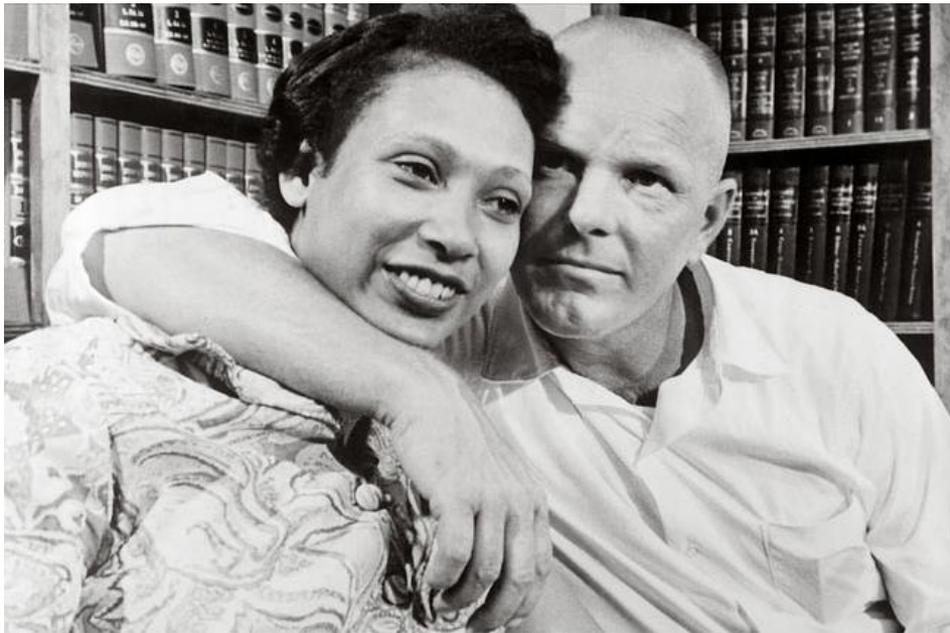
- In essence, it was a way to regularly arrest freed slaves and return them to their former masters at a profit for the State.
- Under this system, the lessee was responsible for feeding, clothing, and housing the prisoners.
- The state of Louisiana leased out convicts as early as 1844, but the system expanded all through the South with the emancipation of slaves at the end of the Civil War in 1865.
- It was a lucrative financial system for the states involved. For example, in 1898 73% of Alabama's entire annual state revenue came from convict leasing.

Historian Alex Lichtenstein notes that, although Northern states also had a convict leasing system in place, it was in no way as harsh or all-encompassing as that in the South.

“Only in the South did the state entirely give up its control to the contractor; and only in the South did the physical ‘penitentiary’ become virtually synonymous with the various private enterprises in which convicts labored. Corruption, lack of accountability, and racial violence resulted in one of the harshest and most exploitative labor systems known in American history. African Americans, mostly adult males, due to vigorous and selective enforcement of laws and discriminatory sentencing, made up the vast majority—but not all—of the convicts leased.”



Laws against racial mingling and interracial relations



Loving versus Virginia (1967)

Richard and Mildred Loving, an interracial couple, were charged under the Virginia Legal Code for violating the law that prohibited interracial couples from being married out of state and then returning to live in Virginia as a married couple. They were also charged with a felony for being an interracial couple.

The presiding judge, Leon Bazile, found them guilty of both charges, stating:

“Almighty God created the races white, black, yellow, malay and red, and he placed them on separate continents. And but for the interference with his arrangement there would be no cause for such marriages. The fact that he separated the races shows that he did not intend for the races to mix.”

The Supreme Court eventually overruled Judge Bazile’s decision in a landmark case in 1967, making any such law invalid. The news apparently didn’t reach all of our states because it wasn’t until 2000 when Alabama became the last state to change its marriage laws to reflect the Supreme Court decision.

Laws from the Nixon Administration

“We must declare and win the war against the criminal elements which increasingly threaten our cities, our homes and our lives.”
(Nixon, 1970 State of the Union Address)

- President Nixon advocated for higher conviction rates as being central to reducing crime levels.
- Between 1969 and 1973, the federal government’s law enforcement budget tripled.
- Federal aid to state and local law enforcement agencies grew from \$60 million to nearly \$800 million.
- Much of law enforcement’s efforts at reducing crime were targeted at poor and minority communities.

Law Enforcement Assistance Administration

- LEAA was federal agency within the U.S. Dept. of Justice that administered federal funding to state and local law enforcement agencies and funded educational programs, research, state planning agencies, and local crime initiatives that increased incarceration.
- The legislation also enabled corporations to re-introduce prison labor.
- The significance of this is that much of the resources were used by agencies and departments to specifically target poor and minority communities.

Laws from the Reagan Administration

Anti-Drug Abuse Act

- The Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986 was a law passed as part of Reagan's "War on Drugs."
- Among other things, the law changed the system of federal supervised release from a rehabilitative system into a punitive system.
- The Act also new mandatory minimum sentences for drugs, which adversely affected criminals of "color".

Federal Sentencing Guidelines also changed.

- Among the controversial aspects of the Sentencing Guidelines have been the 100:1 disparity between treatment of people convicted of possessing or selling drugs that were distinguished as Black drugs (crack cocaine) and White drugs (powder cocaine).

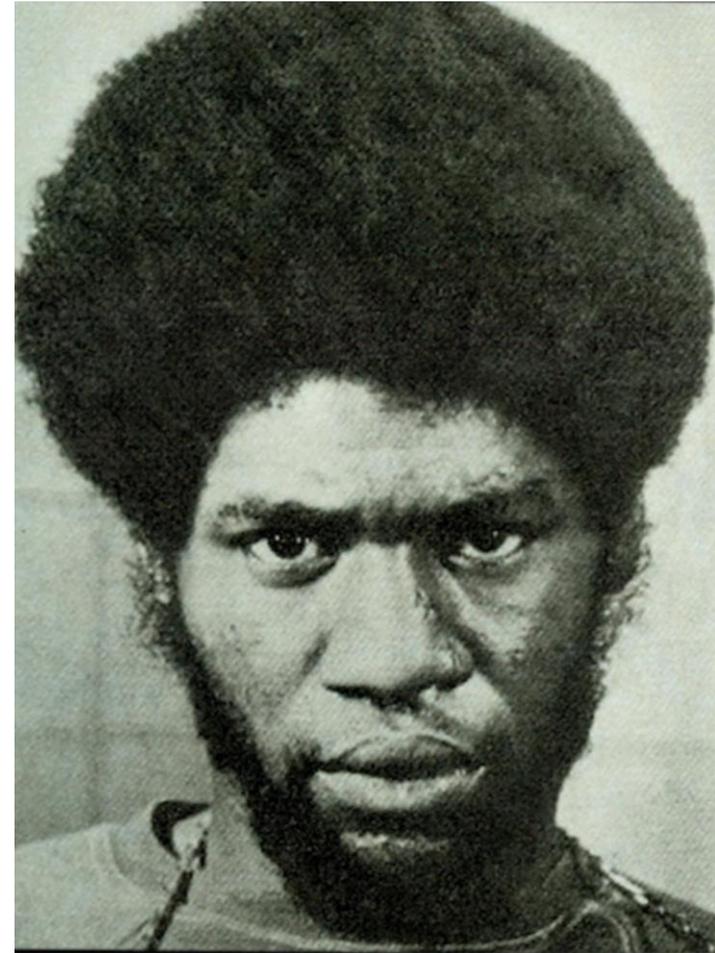


Reagan was also famous for taking on the Black Welfare Queen

- Historian Duchess Harris said, “The welfare queen is the defining social stereotype of the Black woman, a lazy, promiscuous single Black mother living off the dole of society. She poses a threat to the Protestant work ethic that drives America and the American dream of social advancement and acceptability.”
- James Kilgore, author of *Understanding Mass Incarceration* says, “Creating the image of the Welfare Queen as a criminal misuser of taxpayer dollars and perpetuator of sexual immorality helped build the case for reallocating money from social services to law and order.”

In addition to Black women becoming the poster children for welfare reform, Black men became the poster child for criminal justice reform.

- Willie Horton is a convicted felon who, while already serving a life sentence for murder, without the possibility of parole, was allowed to participate in a weekend furlough program that was in effect in the State of Massachusetts where presidential candidate Michael Dukakis served as governor. During the furlough period, Willie Horton committed another string of crimes, including raping a white woman.
- This incident became the center piece of a racially based scare campaign for presidential candidate George H.W. Bush.



Dennis Rome, a professor of criminal justice, wrote that due to the tactics used by candidate Bush against Dukakis in making Willie Horton the center piece of a fear and smear campaign, “Blacks are the repository for the American fear of crime. Ask anyone, of any race, to picture a criminal, and the image will have a black face. The link between blackness and criminality is routinized by terms such as “black on black crime” and “black crime.”

Laws under President Bill Clinton

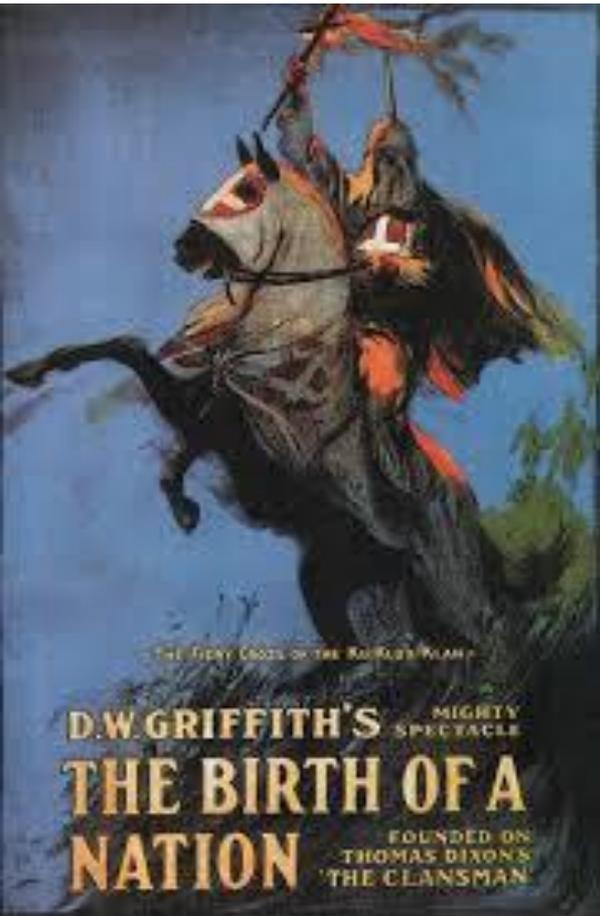
Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996

- The seed for developing and executing The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act began with Reagan, but was fulfilled by President Bill Clinton. The act placed certain restrictions and expectations that people receiving public assistance would have a certain time frame in which to gain self-sufficiency and voluntarily leave public aid or eventually be forced out of the program.

Media

Media Bias

“The media perpetuate ideas linking race with criminality.... The prevalent typification of Blacks as criminals seems to justify law enforcement tactics that exploit race in criminal investigations.” Kelly Welch, professor of criminology



Portrayals of Minority Cultures in the Media

Birth of a Nation (The Clansman)- D.W. Griffith's 1915 silent film.

- The film was a controversial and commercial success.
- It told the story of two families, one pro-Union and one pro-Confederacy, and how their families were affected by the war.
- The film portrays black men as unintelligent and sexually aggressive towards white women.
- The film also portrays the rise of the Ku Klux Klan as a heroic and necessary act.

In the 2001 book *The Black Image in the White Mind*, authors Robert M. Entman and Andrew Rojecki offer a comprehensive look at the subtle patterns of the portrayal of different races/people groups within mass media. They also discuss how these portrayals play a significant role in shaping the attitudes of Whites toward Blacks.

- Within the book they show that, typically, Whites learn about Blacks, not through personal relationships, but through the images shown by the media.
- Additionally, they show a how media is used to subtly build a pattern that communicates a racial hierarchy where Whites reside on top, as well as promoting a sense of difference and conflict between the two groups.

- The authors also shed light on how television news:
- Focuses on black poverty and crime in a way that is disproportionate from the reality of black life.
 - How media's use of black 'experts' is limited to 'black-themed' issues
 - How 'black politics' are often distorted in the news.
 - Essentially, the authors conclude that although there are more images of African-Americans on television now than ever, these images are often harmful to the prospect of unity between the races.

A brief summary of some of their findings:

- A mug shot of a Black defendant was 4 times more likely to appear in a local television news report than of a White defendant.
- When a Black person is accused of a crime, they are 2 times more likely to be shown physically restrained in a local television news report than when the accused is White
- The name of the accused is 2 times more likely to be shown on screen in a local TV news report if the defendant is Black, rather than White.

Bible/Christianity

The Curse of Ham/Curse of Canaan (Gen. 9:20-27) served as a text for the enslavement of those who had black skin.

“And Noah began to be an husbandman, and he planted a vineyard: And he drank of the wine, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent. And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brethren without. And Shem and Japheth took a garment, and laid it upon both their shoulders, and went backward, and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces were backward, and they saw not their father's nakedness. And Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done unto him. And he said, Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren. And he said, ‘Blessed be the Lord God of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant. God shall enlarge Japheth, and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant.’” (KJV)

- The idea that black Africans were the "sons of Ham" and their black skin was a symbol of the curse that hovered over them saw a little traction during the Middle Ages.
- It became increasingly common during the slave trade of the 18th and 19th centuries and was used as justification for participating in the slave trades.

Song of Songs (1:5-6)

"I am black but beautiful, O daughters of Jerusalem . . . Do not gaze at me because I am dark, because the sun has gazed on me. My mother's sons were angry with me; they made me keeper of the vineyards."

The verse has been used as biblical justification that dark-skinned people are to occupy a lower rung on the racial ladder and are ordained to serve others.

Philemon

Paul's words encouraging the slave Onesimus to return to his master Philemon were used to justify slavery and encourage slaves to stay with their masters in contemporary times.

In the article “From Separate Pews to Separate Churches: Evangelical Racial Thought and Practice, 1700-1964”, authors Michael O. Emerson and Christian Smith write the following:

“Traditionally, white Christians paid little attention to slaves’ souls. The pre-1700 views that black slaves were less than fully human, did not possess souls, and were incapable of learning, as well as simple indifference by white Christians all led to a lack of interest in proselytizing slaves.”

- The push to convert slaves was not well received among many masters, or even among non-slave owners. Objections ranged from the older ideas that Africans did not have eternal souls to their inability to learn the Christian faith. Major objections centered around preserving the social order. If slaves were Christianized, this could mean automatic freedom or slave revolts.
- There was an unwritten rule that if a slave accepted Christ and was baptized, they were not only freed from sin, but also slavery. Certain clergy members quickly worked to fight against this custom.

First, beginning as early as 1644, they encouraged colonial legislators to declare that slaves remained slaves, even after baptism. They also had Anglican Bishop George Berkeley request a formal statement from Britain's Attorney General and Solicitor General. In 1729, both replied that baptism did not negate slave status within the British kingdom. Third, clergyman argued that Christian liberty in no way changed temporal bondage.

In 1727, Anglican Bishop Gibson declared that “Christianity, and the embracing of the gospel, does not make the least Alteration in Civil Relations.”

Cotton Mather forcefully argued that the Bible did not give Christian slaves the right to liberty. Just as forcefully, he argued that neither the canons of the church nor the English constitution made a connection between Christianization and temporal freedom. Indeed, slavery was an advantageous institution: because the slaves were viewed as heathens, enslavement provided them the “opportunity to cast off their heathenism and embrace the Christian religion,” with no concomitant change in temporal status.

Not all clergy believed that it would be easy keeping converted slaves compliant. They sought out ways to continue to convince slaves that they needed to remain submissive. Baptismal vows given by Francis LeJau to slaves read in part, “You declare in the presence of God and before this congregation that you do not ask for the holy baptism out of any design to free yourself from the Duty and Obedience you owe to your Master while you live, but merely for the good of Your soul and to partake of the Graces and Blessings promised to the Members of the Church of Jesus Christ.”

- Other clergy members took more drastic steps to keep slaves in line. In their minds, not only did Christianity make slaves better slaves, they argued, it did not in any way hinder owners from using whatever means necessary to obtain compliance. When Bishop Gibson wrote on the issue, he declared that if a slave behaved badly, Christianity did not remove from masters “any proper Methods of enforcing Obedience.”
- The church allowed any degree of “strictness and severity” necessary to maintain mastery. Whether their slaves were baptized or not, owners had the authority to determine the necessary punishment in instances of insubordination.